

REMARKS

Claims 36-88 are pending in this application. Claims 36, 40, 41, 44, 45, 52-54, 57-59, 62, 63, 70, 73-75, 79 and 86 are amended by this Amendment.

The Office Action dated February 5, 2006 objected to the specification and to claim 63 because of informalities. The Office Action rejected claims 36-70 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Office Action also rejected claims 36, 37, 52-55 and 70 as being anticipated by prior art under 35 USC 102(b), and rejected claims 38-51 and 56-69 as being rendered obvious by prior art under 35 USC 103(a).

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

The Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on December 14, 2006 added claims 71 to 88. The outstanding Office Action apparently does not consider the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Applicants respectfully request that claims 71-88 be considered in the next Office Communication in accordance with the filing date of the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment.

Informalities

Applicants have amended the specification and claim 63 to correct the noted informalities. Specifically, applicants have corrected the typographical errors in the first paragraph on page 10 of the specification and corrected the confusing dependency of claim 63.

Indefiniteness Rejection

The claims have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Specifically, the term “capable of wireless communication” has been amended to instead recite that it “is configured to wirelessly communicate” in order to overcome the rejections based on the terms “capable of” and “may”.

Anticipation Rejection

The grounds for the anticipation rejection of claims 36, 37, 52-55 and 70 is set forth in part 10 on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Specifically, the rejection is based on the preferred embodiment shown in Figs. 2A and 2B and described at col. 4, line 45, to col. 5, line 25, of U.S.

Patent No. 5,664,007 issued to Samadi et al. (this preferred embodiment hereinafter being referred to simply as "Samadi"). Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection at least because it fails to establish a prima facie case that Samadi includes each and every one of the combination of features recited in the rejected claims.

For example, independent claim 36 is directed to a communication system having a first network with a first network sink node unit and a second network with a second network sink node unit. It recites that there is "a dedicated connection" between the first network sink node unit and second network unit. Claims 52 and 53 recite substantially the same feature.

Samadi provides for the continuation of communication calls as the user moves from the coverage area of one communication network to the coverage area of another communication network. In particular, it carries out a the process of sending requests from a first to a second network in order to reconnect calls or route a call via a second network where the call has originally been placed across the a first network.

However, Samadi et al. does not describe nor teach the recited feature of "a dedicated connection" between the first network sink node unit and second network unit. Although there is a temporary connection, where once the networks are required to communicate, a connection between the first network switch 205 and a second network switch 204 is established, this is not a dedicated connection. As the description states on column 5 of the patent, the communications between the switches in Samadi are not dedicated but are generated on an ad-hoc basis. In other words, they are generated whenr they are required.

Independent claim 54 similarly recites a first sink node arranged to operate as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminal with communication access to the second network. Claim 70 recites substantially the same feature as claim 54.

Samadi does not include this feature. Although the switch 205 does not communicate with the switch 204, to permit traffic data to be communicated between the two, the switch 205 does not operate as a mobile communications device or "second communication terminal" to provide the first communication terminal with communications access to the second network.

Obviousness Rejection

The grounds for the obviousness rejection of claims 38-51 and 56-69 are set forth in part 12 on pages 6-10 of the Office Action. Specifically, the rejection states that the claims are rendered

obvious by Samadi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,413 issued to Mueller et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection at least because it does not establish a prima facie case that the applied reference suggest each and every one of the combination of features recited in the claims.

The Mueller et al patent describes a mobile station for transmitting a mobile radio signal to a base station. The base station has a memory device in which a number of available applications are stored which can relate to different carriers. These can be mobile radio network systems or service providers within a single mobile radio network. Based on these calculations, the most cost effective application for a desired transmission is selected.

However, the Mueller et al. patent does not disclose either a dedicated connection between the first network sink node unit and a second network unit. It also fails to disclose a first sink node being arranged to operate as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communication access to the second network.

Furthermore, there is suggestion or motivation for the proposed modification of Samadi as proposed in the rejection. One of ordinary skill in the art would not seek to make the combination proposed in the rejection were it not for the hindsight provided by this application.

Conclusion

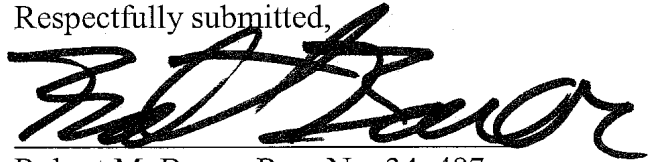
Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art cited by the Office Action for at least the reasons stated above. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessary for the consideration of this Amendment, or any other fees required in connection with this application, to Deposit Account No. 10-0100 (Docket No. NOKIA.4013US).

March 5, 2007

Date

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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